



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Supervisor Ridley-Thomas Receives 2012 President's Award from the California Association of African-American Superintendents and Administrators

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas was honored with the 2012 President's Award from the California Association of African-American Superintendents and Administrators at its fourth annual award banquet Thursday, February 23 in Sacramento.

The leadership award, which also was given to state Assemblymembers Mike Davis and Wilmer Carter, Stanford Professor, Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond, Publisher Hardy Brown, Oakland Unified Superintendent Dr. Tony Smith, Moreno Valley Unified Superintendent Dr. Judy White, Former California State Superintendent Jack O'Connell, and School Board Member Hank Hendricks. The President's Award is given to individuals who have demonstrated exemplary legislative leadership with extraordinary emphasis on improving education for all students.

In his acceptance speech, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas spoke of his recent trip to Texas with Los Angeles Superintendent Arturo Delgado, where they visited juvenile probation facilities, to study models for education reform that could be implemented in Los Angeles youth camps and halls.

“One thing is clear... if you provide youth with the educational tools they need, coupled with a culture of high expectations and academic rigor, youth will succeed even in an environment such as a detention facility.”

He went on to say, “It is an honor to receive the President’s Award and to be recognized with trailblazers who are optimistic, committed, and determined to reform education and change the paradigm of African-American and Latino young men and women in Los Angeles.”

The California Association of African-American Superintendents and Administrators (CAAASA) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to identify and to address the critical issues in education through public policy relative to the status and performance of African-American students in California.

This year’s theme for the three day CAAASA conference, “Sounding the Alarm: Education is a civil right” focused on breaking the barriers to reverse the trend of the school-to-prison pipeline.

Visit www.caaasa.org to learn more about the California Association of African-American Superintendents and Administrators.

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